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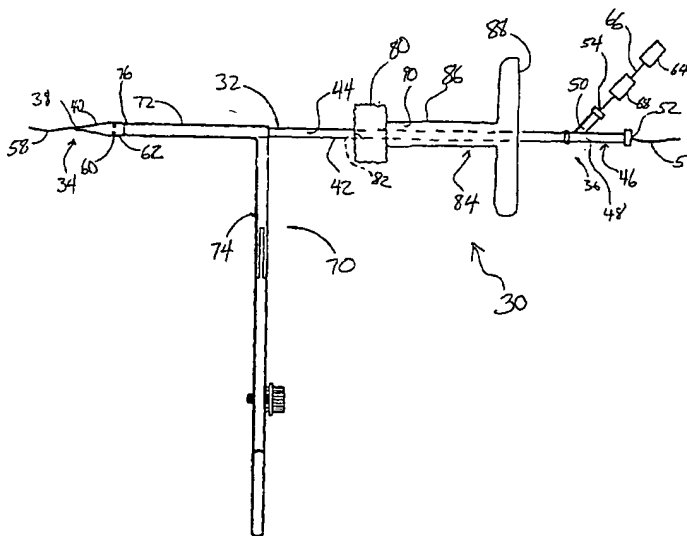
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(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING VASCULAR PUNCTURE**



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for closing a vascular wound includes a guidewire (58) and/or other surgical implement (32) extending from the wound (w). A sponge-like hemostatic material (80) is advanced over the surgical implement and into contact with an area of the blood vessel (94) surrounding the wound. The surgical implement (32) is removed. Blood (b) soaks the hemostatic material (80), and blood clotting is facilitated by the hemostatic agent within the material. A sealing layer of adhesive (106) can be applied to the sponge-like material (80), confining the blood flow to the sponge. Thus, the vascular puncture wound (w) is sealed by natural blood clot formation.

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern: I Application No  
PCT/US 01/24462**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 A61B17/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 818 178 A (CARDIOLOGICS, L.L.C.) 14 January 1998 (1998-01-14) the whole document	1,2,4-9
Y		3
A		20
Y	WO 98 24374 A (LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER) 11 June 1998 (1998-06-11) figures	3
X	US 6 056 768 A (CATES ET AL.) 2 May 2000 (2000-05-02) the whole document	1,2,4-9, 13,15-18
A		20
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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00 33744 A (UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA PATENT FOUNDATION) 15 June 2000 (2000-06-15) abstract; figures	1,2,4-9, 19
A	page 17, line 11 -page 20, line 6	20
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